

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Katherine Tai  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai,

We are writing today to urge you to prioritize market access for American farmers in trade negotiations with Taiwan. Strengthened trade relations with Taiwan will unlock countless growth opportunities for U.S. businesses and workers and serve as a check on the People's Republic of China (PRC) as it positions itself to challenge the United States. Although the goals of the *U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade* could make a helpful contribution to strengthening this crucial trade relationship, we are concerned that the initiative is not nearly ambitious enough to address the economic and national security challenges we currently face.

The United States' agriculture industry plays an essential role in our economy and in communities nationwide. It employs 21.1 million Americans and contributes \$1.264 trillion to annual GDP. Accessing new markets and expanding current ones is critical for the industry's continued growth and for our farmers' ability to serve consumers. Currently, U.S. farmers and exporters face a variety of barriers to doing business in Taiwan. Agriculture products are subject to an average tariff of 15.06 percent, and certain products, such as rice, peanuts, and bananas, are subject to burdensome tariff-rate quotas. U.S. beef and pork face substantial non-science based restrictions in addition to tariffs.

These tariff barriers are well-known and long-standing, yet the negotiating mandate for the *U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade* omits them entirely. We recognize that these negotiations will seek to address non-tariff barriers that impact agricultural exports, but we question whether commercially meaningful outcomes are possible without tearing down the significant tariff barriers facing our exporters. Therefore, we request you provide a specific list of non-tariff barriers, by commodity, that you will seek to address in these negotiations with Taiwan so that we are able to properly assess the meaningfulness of any final agreement.

There is substantial, bipartisan support in Congress for a U.S.-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement (FTA), but the Biden Administration has declined to take this approach. We know well from the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement the significant impact FTAs can have, and therefore we request additional explanation of how the *U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade* can achieve comparable economic benefits for American farmers and ranchers as an FTA.

Any trade agreement with Taiwan must aim to reduce trade barriers and increase market access for U.S. exporters, including our farmers and ranchers. It should also include mechanisms to ensure regulatory transparency and protect against unfair treatment of U.S. goods. We urge you to prioritize these issues during negotiations and to inform Congress of your specific objectives as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Kustoff".

David Kustoff  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adrian Smith".

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory F. Murphy".

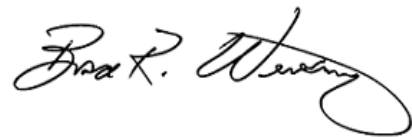
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Carey".

Mike Carey  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Steel".

Michelle Steel  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad R. Wenstrup".

Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Feenstra".

Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Tenney".

Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



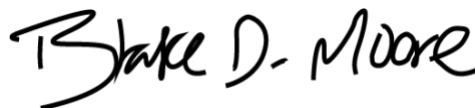
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson, IV  
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Ron Estes  
Member of Congress